

House Resolution 1130

By: Representative Bryant of the 162nd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Deacon Rufus Peters; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Deacon Peters on January 15, 2014; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Deacon Peters was born on January 28, 1915, on White Hall Plantation, a
5 beloved son of the late Mary Peters; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was educated in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, and
7 he honorably served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States
8 Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during World War II, and
9 retired from his 20 year position as a Quality Control Inspector for the Savannah Sugar
10 Refinery in 1977; and
- 11 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Deacon Peters was baptized in 1932 and
12 became a devoted member of Fairlawn Baptist Church in Garden City, Georgia, where he
13 served faithfully for over 60 years; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in 1955, he was ordained as a deacon and served as chairman of the Deacon
15 Board from 1986 to 2005; upon his retirement as a deacon, he was named Deacon Emeritus;
16 in honor of his faith in God, dedication, and unyielding commitment to the Fairlawn Baptist
17 Church family, a newly constructed multi-purpose building was named in his honor; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Deacon Peters was united in love and marriage to Bernice Peters, and they were
19 blessed with five remarkable children, Ellen Peters, Rufus Nicholas, Francis Peters, Patricia
20 Adams, Helen Tate, and Katherine (Mack) Spaulding, five wonderful grandchildren, and six
21 great-grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, Deacon Peters was deeply entrenched in the Civil Rights Movement in
23 Savannah, Georgia, as a "Ground Crew" member helping to advance equal rights for all
24 citizens; Deacon Peters was a lifetime member of the National Association for the
25 Advancement of Colored People, and he delighted the hearts of thousands of children each
26 year in the Georgia Day Parade as he portrayed the great Native American, Tomochichi, for
27 over 21 years; and

28 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
29 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
30 family and friends were admired by others; he spent over 25 years in volunteer service; and

31 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
32 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he
33 made this world a better place in which to live; and

34 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Deacon Peters will long be remembered
35 for his love of family and friendship, and he will be missed by all who had the great fortune
36 of knowing him.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF THE
38 REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory
39 of Deacon Rufus Peters and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to
41 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Deacon Rufus Peters.